RCE of Application No. 10/016,871 Prel: Amdt. dated April 1, 2004

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested. Claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 11, 14-18 remain in the application. Claim 15 has been amended to depend from claim 14.

This preliminary amendment is being filed together with an RCE, which requests the entry of the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 submitted on February 25, 2004. In other words, the earlier after final amendment preceds the entry of the instant preliminary amendment.

The preliminary amendment is presented in an effort to correct a clerical error pointed out by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

For Applicants

YC/bb

WERNER H. STEMER REG. NO. 34,956

April 1, 2004

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